

REMARKS

Claims 1-18 and 27-41 are currently pending in the application. Of these claims, claims 1, 15, and 27 are independent.

Rejections

Claims 1-3, 6-8, 10-18, 27-28, 30-31, 34-38, and 41 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,141,351 to Goodnow et al. ("Goodnow").

Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections as follows.

Applicant respectfully submits Goodnow did not teach or suggest receipt of signals by a device over one line of a bus while signals are transmitted by the device over the one line of the bus as claimed in independent claims 1, 15, and 27.

With respect to claim 1, the Office Action states on page 3 at lines 11-19:

Figure 2 and column 3 lines 61-63 [of Goodnow] are interpreted as first and second devices (Elements 24 and 26) simultaneously communicating with each other via first and second signals over the bus.

Goodnow does not expressly state that the communication between the first and second devices over the bus occurs on the same one line of the bus.

However, at the time of the invention it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to transmit the first and second signals between the first and second devices of Goodnow on one line of the bus to maximize bandwidth utilization while keeping the number of lines at a minimum.

Claims 15 and 27 appear to be rejected on a similar basis.

Applicant respectfully submits, however, that this conclusion of obviousness is improperly drawn in hindsight only after reading Applicant's claims.

Goodnow taught in column 3 at lines 61-63:

Thus, simultaneous, parallel communications may occur over the same bus.

Applicant respectfully submits that this statement refers to one sending device transmitting data to one receiving device over a bus while a different sending device transmits data to a different receiving device over the bus. Goodnow taught, for example, in column 3 at lines 2-8:

Each of these devices [sharing bus 12] include means for sending and/or receiving data over any one of a plurality of frequency bands thereby making it possible to have simultaneous communications over bus 12. For instance, CPU 2 may be transmitting data to MEM 1 at the same time that I/O device 1 is transmitting data to CPU 1.

Applicant therefore respectfully submits Goodnow did not teach or suggest "first and second devices * * * simultaneously communicating with each other via first and second signals over the bus" as otherwise alleged in the Office Action.

Indeed, Applicant respectfully submits Goodnow taught away from having a device receive signals over one line of bus 12 or 28 while transmitting signals over the one line of bus 12 or 28. Applicant respectfully submits that Goodnow taught that a device is assigned only one frequency band at a time to communicate over bus 12 or 28. See, e.g., Goodnow in column 2 at lines 19-20, column 3 at lines 43-52, and column 4 at lines 12-14. Applicant therefore respectfully submits such a device cannot receive signals over one line of bus 12 or 28 while transmitting signals over the one line of bus 12 or 28 because such signals would interfere with one another.

Noting the remaining rejected claims depend from independent claim 1, 15, or 27, Applicant therefore respectfully submits these rejections have been overcome and should accordingly be withdrawn.

Note that there may be additional reasons for the patentability of claims. For example, there may be additional reasons why the dependent claims are patentable.

It is respectfully submitted this patent application is in condition for allowance, for which early action is earnestly solicited.

The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned to help expedite the prosecution of this patent application.

Respectfully submitted,

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